

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The final Office Action of January 16, 2006, has been carefully reviewed, and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 10-15, 22, 23, 25-30, and 34 are now pending. No new matter is added.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 10-15, 22, 23, 25-28, and 34 are allowed, and that claims 29 and 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The undersigned representative telephoned the Examiner on May 17, 2006, to inquire about the status of claim 28, which was not addressed in the Office Action. The Examiner indicated during the brief telephone call that he considered claim 28 to be allowed.

To expedite allowance, *all rejected claims have been canceled*. The only claims remaining are those indicated as allowed or as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. In particular, claims 10-15, 22, 23, 25-28, and 34 have been allowed, and claims 29 and 30 have been rewritten in independent form and are thus allowable as indicated in the Office Action.

It is therefore believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and notification of the same is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

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